



ISSUE: 21-99

November 15, 1999

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Mid-October Prices Received by Farmers

Preliminary indications of prices received by Idaho farmers for the month of October showed increases for alfalfa hay, feed barley, malt barley, dry beans, all wheat, steers and heifers, and calves. Prices decreased for all barley, potatoes, beef cattle, cows, and all milk.

For the U.S., the October All Farm Products Index of Prices Received was 92, down 5 points (5.2 percent) from September. Lower prices for broilers, corn, milk, and eggs more than offset price increases for cattle, tobacco, oranges, and cucumbers.

Prices Received by Farmers for Selected Commodities, Oct. 1998 - Oct. 1999

Commodity	Unit	Idaho			United States			
		October 1998	September 1999	October 1999 ^{1/}	October 1998	September 1999	October 1999	
							Price ^{1/}	% Parity
CROPS:								
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	85.00	83.00	84.00	86.90	77.30	76.00	--
Barley, All	Bu.	1.98	2.59	2.27	1.91	2.03	2.00	34
Feed	Bu.	1.56	1.79	1.85	1.46	1.64	1.69	--
Malting	Bu.	10/	2.78	2.90	2.47	2.41	2.49	--
Dry Beans	Cwt.	17.60	17.00	17.20	19.60	18.10	16.80	33
Potatoes ^{2/}	Cwt.	4.25	4.85	4.65	4.47	5.15	4.75	36
Fresh ^{3/}	Cwt.	4.10	4.90	--	5.44	6.38	--	--
Processing	Cwt.	4.30	4.80	--	4.28	4.59	--	--
Wheat, All	Bu.	2.35	2.63	2.72	2.77	2.57	2.49	26
LIVESTOCK & PRODUCTS:								
Beef Cattle ^{4/}	Cwt.	51.10	59.20	58.30	58.00	63.80	66.10	43
Cows ^{5/}	Cwt.	28.10	34.20	33.00	30.50	34.60	34.50	--
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	60.00	66.30	68.20	61.40	67.10	70.10	--
Calves	Cwt.	72.00	82.00	84.00	75.70	90.90	92.00	48
Lambs	Cwt.	65.00	70.00	--	67.60	75.30	--	--
Milk, All ^{6/}	Cwt.	16.70	15.40	12.60	17.70	15.80	7/ 15.50	8/ 48
Fluid Grade ^{9/}	Cwt.	16.70	15.40	--	17.80	15.80	7/ 15.60	--
Mfg. Grade	Cwt.	17.52	14.80	--	16.80	15.20	7/ 13.60	--

1/ Mid-Month. 2/ Average price of potatoes sold for all uses, including table stock, processing, seed and livestock feed. 3/ Fresh market prices only, includes table stock prices. 4/ "Cows" and "steers & heifers" combined. 5/ Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter. 6/ Before deductions for hauling. Includes quality, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies. 7/ Fat test percent: all milk 3.72, fluid milk 3.72, mfg. grade 3.88. 8/ Seasonally adjusted price as percentage of parity price. 9/ Including milk diverted to manufacturing. 10/ Not published to avoid disclosure of individual firms.

United States Price Index Summary Table

Index 1990-1992 = 100	September 1998	October 1998	September 1999		October 1999 Preliminary
			Preliminary	Revised	
Prices Received	99	99	97	97	92
Prices Paid	113	114	117	116	116
Ratio ^{1/}	88	87	83	84	79

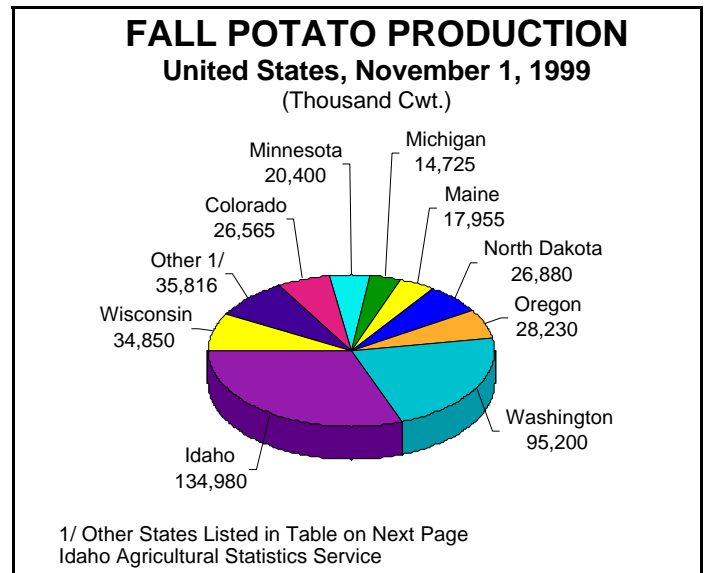
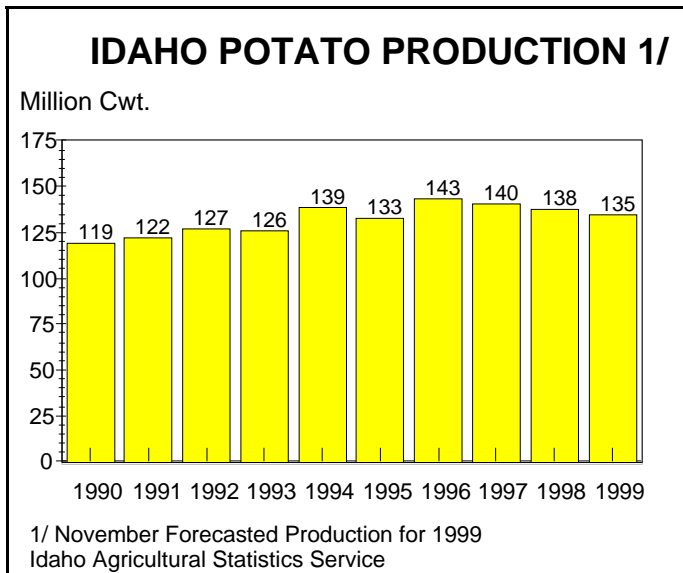
1/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid.

Idaho's Potato Production Down 2 Percent

Idaho's 1999 potato production is expected to total 134.98 million cwt., down 2 percent from last year's 138.00 million cwt. This is the lowest production since 1995. Planted acres of 400,000 and harvested acres of 398,000 are unchanged from previously set estimates. A statewide yield of 339 cwt. (field-run basis) is up 1 cwt. from a year ago. Yield in the 10 Southwestern counties, at 470 cwt., is up 20 cwt. from 1998 and equal to the record high set in 1994 and 1997. Total production in this area is estimated at 12.22 million cwt. from 26,000 harvested acres. In Idaho's "other counties," yield is estimated at 330 cwt., unchanged from a year ago and 4 cwt. below the five-year (1994-98) average of 334 cwt. Area production from

372,000 harvested acres is expected to total 122.76 million cwt., 2 percent below last year's 125.40 million cwt.

The 1999 season got off to a slow start with cool, wet conditions affecting planting. Despite the delays which put the crop as much as 2 weeks behind schedule, progress and development caught up with the arrival of spring conditions. Variations in temperatures early in the growing season did not hamper growth and a good quality crop resulted. Harvest was completed under mild conditions with most growers optimistic about the crop going into storage.



United States Potato Highlights

Nationally, production of fall potatoes for 1999 is forecast at 436 million cwt., up 1 percent from last year and 3 percent above 1997. Area harvested, at 1.18 million acres, is down 3 percent from last year and down less than 1 percent from two years ago. The average yield is forecast at 369 cwt. per acre a jump of 13 cwt. from last year and 12 cwt. above two years ago.

The Five Eastern States produced 28.7 million cwt. of fall potatoes in 1999, down 3 percent from last year and 6 percent below two years ago. Area for harvest totaled 106,000 acres, down 3 percent from last year. The average yield of 271 cwt. per acre was equal to last year and 7 cwt. above 1997.

The Eight Central States' production is forecast at 109 million cwt. this year, a gain of 1 percent from last year and 11 percent above two years ago. Harvest was taken from 338,700 acres, a drop of 6 percent from last year. The average yield of 322 cwt. per acre represented a 24 cwt. increase from a year ago.

The Ten Western States produced 298 million cwt. in 1999, up 1 percent from each of the last two years. Acreage harvested, at 736,000 acres, decreased 1 percent from last year, while the average yield of 405 cwt. per acre was up 7 cwt. Production in Idaho decreased 2 percent from last year and 4 percent from two years ago. Washington gained 2 percent and Oregon 8 percent to more than make up for Idaho's smaller production.

Fall Potatoes - Production Forecast November 1, 1999

States	Area Harvested		Yield Per Acre		Production		
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1997	1998	1999
	<u>1,000 Acres</u>		<u>Cwt.</u>			<u>1,000 Cwt.</u>	
WINTER ^{1/}	15.0	17.8	199	229	3,431	2,980	4,070
SPRING ^{1/}	90.6	85.8	233	270	22,299	21,121	23,205
SUMMER ^{1/}	68.1	64.4	278	289	18,171	18,933	18,606
FALL							
California	10.3	9.0	360	445	4,200	3,708	4,005
Colorado	75.7	77.0	335	345	24,993	25,360	26,565
IDAHO, ALL	408.0	398.0	338	339	140,314	138,000	134,980
- 10 SW Counties	28.0	26.0	450	470	12,690	12,600	12,220
- Other Areas	380.0	372.0	330	330	127,624	125,400	122,760
Indiana	5.0	4.9	320	270	1,170	1,600	1,323
Maine	64.5	63.0	280	285	19,080	18,060	17,955
Massachusetts	2.9	2.9	235	260	810	682	754
Michigan	46.5	47.5	315	310	14,250	14,648	14,725
Minnesota	73.0	60.0	290	340	20,440	21,170	20,400
Montana	10.6	10.9	300	295	3,328	3,180	3,216
Nebraska	21.8	21.2	375	420	7,761	8,175	8,904
Nevada	7.0	6.5	400	435	2,967	2,800	2,828
New Mexico	5.9	6.6	380	320	2,379	2,242	2,112
New York	27.0	25.5	270	265	7,150	7,290	6,758
North Dakota	122.0	112.0	235	240	22,000	28,670	26,880
Ohio	4.8	4.7	250	210	1,170	1,200	987
Oregon, ALL	58.0	55.5	452	509	27,319	26,229	28,230
- Malheur, Co.	11.4	10.5	400	460	4,796	4,560	4,830
- Other Areas	46.6	45.0	465	520	22,523	21,669	23,400
Pennsylvania	14.0	14.0	240	220	3,173	3,360	3,080
Rhode Island	0.7	0.6	210	225	216	147	135
South Dakota	4.8	3.4	260	290	968	1,248	986
Utah	2.6	2.0	280	290	957	728	580
Washington	165.0	170.0	565	560	88,160	93,225	95,200
Wisconsin	83.5	85.0	370	410	30,175	30,895	34,850
Wyoming	0.4	0.5	300	295	210	120	148
TOTAL FALL	1,214.0	1,180.7	356	369	423,190	432,737	435,601
UNITED STATES	1,387.7	1,348.7	343	357	467,091	475,771	481,482

^{1/} Estimates for current year carried forward from earlier forecast.

Idaho Sugarbeet Production Down 8 Percent

Idaho sugarbeet production for 1999 is forecast at 5.08 million tons compared to 5.50 million tons a year ago. Yield of 24.2 tons per acre is below 1998's 27.1 tons per acre. Harvested acreage of 210,000 is up from last year's 203,000 harvested acres.

Sugarbeet production for the U.S. is expected to total a record high 33.4 million tons, an increase of 2 percent from the previous record in 1998. Growers in the 12 sugarbeet-producing States expect to harvest 1.53 million acres, 5 percent more than last year and the highest since 1.54 million acres were harvested in 1969. Yields are expected to average 21.9 tons per acre, below the 1998 yield of 22.5 tons.

Highlights of U.S. Dairy Products in September 1999

Butter production was 78.8 million pounds in September, 15.5 percent above September 1998 and 19.2 percent above August 1999.

American Type Cheese production totaled 284 million pounds, 15.8 percent above September 1998 but 3.7 percent below August 1999.

Total Cheese output (excluding cottage cheese) was 640 million pounds, 9.5 percent above September 1998 but 1.8 percent below August 1999.

Cream Cottage Cheese production was 31.2 million pounds, 1.9 percent below September 1998 and 3.0 percent below August 1999.

Lowfat Cottage Cheese production was 31.5 million pounds, 4.3 percent below September 1998 and 1.9 percent below August 1999.

Frozen Desserts: (Comparisons with September 1998)

Ice cream

Regular (hard) - 71.3 million gallons, down 2.1 percent.

Lowfat (total) - 32.5 million gallons, down 6.2 percent.

Nonfat (hard) - 3.23 million gallons, up 3.2 percent.

Sherbet (hard) - 4.30 million gallons, up 7.2 percent.

Frozen Yogurt (total) - 7.05 million gallons, down 18.5 percent.

Dry Milk Products: (Comparisons with September 1998)

Nonfat Dry Milk

for Human Food - 88.9 million pounds, up 42.7 percent.

Dry Whole Milk - 8.58 million pounds, down 24.7 percent.

Dry Buttermilk - 3.16 million pounds, up 23.0 percent.